Rt. 12 now, renumbered, same place
8/28/75

Dear Paul,

This is a hasty response to your questions of 8/26. Many thanks for the clips with it. They inform and I am trying to help Lowenstein.

Interesting that you should comment on the current Hollywood interest in police stories when just this morning I was discussing this aspect of Post Mortem with two friends who have come to help me for a short period.

A very large Post Mortem portion is on the FBI. With the kind of stuff that you never see. I'm getting to the end of the new fourth part. Aside from a bit on the judge and how the courts work in these political cases, a chapter than in an honest society would jail some of these officials, this part is virtually all FBI.

However, I am not suggesting belief that this is the kind of police stories Hollywood wants now.

Nor do I think it will increase the interest of respect of these kinds of people to know that I sue the FBI and under oath charge them with perjury and then prove it. Their lawyer is the prosecutor and he did not even suggest that I be charged with perjury. I made it an issue: the FBI or I commited perjury. They and the judge ducked it except that the judge pretended to be a bit avuncular in a warning to Jim Lesar to the effect that if we said such things outside of court (as I have repeatedly over the years and specifically on this and it was published) we could be sued for damages. Jim's response was that we were then and there ready to walk outside the courtroom and repeat the charges we had already proven. The judge backed off. He is the judge who tried to give the FBI limitless rights to electronic surveillance. But I don't suppose the people out there care that much about their rights, money being their concept of freedom.

However, in a dynamite collection of evidence to decent people this becomes a nuke, I have that kind of new "new evidence."

On the printing: there is a new offset process that costs less for some kinds of printing. It has some disadvantages, like half-tones tend to be flat but not unclear. It also has some thickness limitations. I have some on weight, meaning mailing costs. However, I'll explain the source and limit of the money I have. From the first of the year, because I expected the first and third book to be exhausted this year, I put every penny possible in an escrow account. We used it only for real emergencies and for the costs other than printing of WW IV. I have now sold enough copies of WW IV to pay off the principal and the interest Jim borrowed to pay the printer, the artist for the cover, and we can start recovering the other costs, including postage, envelopes, etc. The mailing was expensive for us and thatm too, came from the sale of the old books. Instead of paying off my debt with this money I decided that I'd reprint and from what comes in from the reprints repay this debt. However, I have some partly damaged books that I'll offer instead when I run out and with the money I've been scrimping to accumulate will print Post Mortem. I think you can understand it this far.

The amount I've accumulated to date is something like $2,000 or a bit more short of the estimated production cost of Post Mortem. I'll just go to the bank and borrow that. I'll have to add about $500 for just a mailing. But I rather expect the mailing will pay its costs and start paying for the book. If commercial mailers got the percentage of return I dod they'd go crazy with joy. With the cost of shipping from the printer the shortfall may be about $3,000. I will not now let Jim borrow this because he has had to give up all possibility of income and the real beginning of his practise to do the unpaid work he is doing. His wife is working a half day only since the baby was born. Some of the day Jim practises law as a baby-sitter.

I am making efforts to sell ancillary rights. The possibilities are not too bad right now. It will turn on the whim of one man, having approval up top him and he is on Olympus. I've been through this before. It happened at Playboy, where all up to Heffner went for it.

I appreciate your willingness. However, my printing this is not now impossible. If I do not relish adding to my debt with the kind of life I lead at 62 I'm not afraid to and I do not consider it irresponsible, on balance. So, I'll do it. I do not believe that it will be that difficult to pay the borrowed money back. We'll again use 100% of the gross and what comes in from the other books to this end.

If I need help it may be on reprinting the earlier books.

I'm sorry we live in a world in which some are willing to enjoy the benefits they still have because others do what they will not to preserve any kind of decency or freedom in society. Long experience tells me that the fatter the wallet the bigger the mouth and the tighter the latch on the pocket. So, I'll not waste time with which I might do some work in seeking help from these types.

There are many liabilities to the unedited work that just grew over almost a decade but I have no real choice. I can print it as it is with all these liabilities or it won't get printed or I won't do other work for a very long time so it can be redone. This means no choice. I've took much yet to do and it is clear that if I do not it won't get done.

I may need backstopping on reprinting the first and third when they are out of print. I don't know yet. Too many unpredictables.

Please excuse the typose. I can't take time to correct them. If you can't understand try correcting as you read, in writing the corrections in. I must rush to complete the writing because I have a friend for a short time and I must use what he can do. He'll edit this new part and help with the appendix. I want when he has to leave to be able to begin completing making the book camera-ready. He has to get back to school when it starts soon.

My day is so broken up concentration is quite difficult. He thus has added value to me when I can't even remember what is on paper and what is in my overloaded mind.

This book really does have the evidence that can break it all apart. I must get it out as fast as possible and then hope that it does what it can, despite the liabilities and problems.

Tharks and best,

8/28/75

Afterthought:

Long ago, I believe, I told you that when CBS announced its coming November special I heard from inside ABC that it and NBC both would have similar specials.

The ABC one has been announced. It wasn't mentioned here. My source is a man in the commercial end of TV in NYC.

CBS has a long lead. Inevitably, they are coving my work and I think have no intention of saying it is other than theirs. There is nothing practical I can do to prevent this even though my meetings with them have been taped with the specific understanding that I'm giving nothing away and am reserving my rights.

Nothing has surfaced with NBC. Nothing I know of.

ABC's is a joing venture with 20th Century-Fox.

If they intend a really honest job I've done most of the work for them. They can pay me enough for what I'll save them.

And if they go about it the right eay, they can cream. I mean the surface and to the level of the skim milk (or don't you remember before homogenizing?)

So, the question is do you know anyone at 20th Century-Fox who is interested in the project or knows those who are so they may get interested in the ancillary rights I'm anxious to sell.

They may or may not believe it but:

If they try another covering up they'll be badly hurt. We are past the point where any reputation can survive it and it would be the worst net p.r.

If they want to do a good job, they can't spend a million and come up with what I have, I'd learned and done that much, so much of which was based on learning.

They'll look very bad doing little more if anything more than this enormous CBS project will have.

Best,